

November 30, 2018

The Honorable Ajit Pai, Chairman
The Honorable Michael O'Rielly, Commissioner
The Honorable Brendan Carr, Commissioner
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner

Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
455 12th Street, Southwest
Washington, DC, 20544

Dear Chairman Pai --

I write to support the Comments of the Cable Act Preservation Alliance ("CAPA") and to disapprove of the proposals and tentative conclusions set forth in the FCC's September 25 Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making in Implementation of Section 621(a)(1) of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 as Amended by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992, MB Docket 05- 311.

The FCC proposals would eliminate the funding source that makes community media possible. In my town of Arlington, Massachusetts the cable providers, Comcast, Verizon, and RCN currently pay the town for the use of town streets to run their wires into our homes. From those payments, the town of Arlington provides 99% of the funding required to run the local Community Media station, ACMi ([www.http://acmi.tv/](http://acmi.tv/)). Without this funding, ACMi will no longer be able to provide any of the essential services it has been offering for many years. In addition to providing valuable coverage of town governance and local issues affecting Arlington residents in our day-to-day lives, ACMi also helps to enrich the community by televising local sports and community events, such as town day and concerts, as well as special stories about education, cultural activities, safety, etc. The station provides video training for the many volunteers, including interns from local colleges, who not only help to minimize the operating costs of the station, but also gain valuable skills and opportunities to contribute to the community.

I encourage the FCC to take measures to ensure the continued support for community media, rather than eliminate this valuable community resource with the current proposed changes. The intent of the PEG provisions of the 1984 Cable Act was to enhance local voices, serve local community needs and interests, and strengthen our local democracy. By defining "franchise fee" in an overly broad fashion to include "in-kind" support, the FCC's proposals will shift the fair balance between cable franchising authorities and cable operators and will force communities to choose between franchise fees and PEG channels, something that was never the intent of the Act.

Thank you,

Greg Bartlett
Arlington, MA